

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H4601, As amended**

(Doc. No. 7479ahb08.doc)

TO:	The Honorable Daniel T. "Dan" Cooper, Chairperson, House Ways and Means Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Allan Kincaid		
DATE:	March 7, 2008	SBD:	2008133

AUTHOR:	Representative W.D. Smith	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	16-3-1180
SUBJECT:	Crime Victims' Ombudsman		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

The proposed Bill: amends Section 16-3-1180, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to victims' compensation awards, so as to allow the crime victim's advisory board to authorize additional counseling for victims based on documented need; amends Section 16-3-1230, as amended, relating to crime victims' compensation claims, so as to allow claim submission via facsimile or other electronic means; amends Article 14, Chapter 3 of Title 16, relating to the victim/witness assistance program, so as to restructure the program to empower the State Office of Victim Assistance to provide certain services currently provided by the Victim Compensation Fund; restructures the victims' services to be provided; creates the Victim Services Coordinating Council and provide for its membership; and creates the Office of Victim Services Education and Certification within the Office of the Crime Victims' Ombudsman; establishes certification and continuing education requirements for victim service providers; and adds Section 16-3-1680 so as to authorize the crime victims' ombudsman to promulgate necessary regulations.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

According to the State Office of Victim Assistance there are approximately 4,000 new claims each year. Of these, it is estimated 440 (11%) are for counseling and 132 or (30%) meet the current limit of 20 sessions. If the maximum of 20 additional sessions were allowed for the 132 claims, there will be an additional payout of approximately \$237,600. Funding for the additional sessions will be covered through revenue collected from the restitution recovery and the reduction in spending programs. Therefore, there will be no impact on the General Fund of the State.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget